

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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O P 081240Z SEP 78  
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INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 5291

FROM LOW

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PDEV, PINT, RH  
SUBJECT: RHODESIAN DISCUSSION WITH MOZAMBIQUE  
GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

1. GRAHAM AND I TOGETHER WITH AMBASSADOR LEWEN AND CHARGE MCGUIRE MET WITH PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR FERNANDO HONWANA AND THREE MEMBERS OF THE MOZAMBIQUE FOREIGN OFFICE STAFF ON THURSDAY AFTERNOON, SEPTEMBER 7. WE OUTLINED THE SITUATION SINCE WE HAD LAST MET WITH THEM TWO MONTHS AGO IN EARLY JULY, DESCRIBING THE RESENT-MENT INSIDE RHODESIA OVER THE VISCOUNT DISASTER AND CONFUSION RESULTING FROM REVELATION OF THE SMITH-NKOMO MEETING, AND NOTING THAT IT SEEMED BETTER FOR THE TIME BEING TO TAKE STOCK AND LET A LITTLE TIME PASS BEFORE PRESSING AGAIN FOR AN ALL-PARTIES MEETING.

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2. HONWANA MADE NO BONES ABOUT THE GPRM OPPOSITION TO THE NKOMO-SMITH MEETING. IT WAS, AS FAR AS HE WAS CONCERNED, OUTSIDE THE AAP, WHICH THEY CONTINUE TO BELIEVE SHOULD BE THE BASIS FOR A SETTLEMENT. EVEN THOUGH THE AAP HAS NOT BEEN FINALLY NEGOTIATED, THE PF WAS WILLING TO MAKE FURTHER CONCESSIONS, PROVIDING THERE WAS GIVE ON SMITH'S SIDE. IT WAS THIS THAT WE SHOULD NOW CONCENTRATE

ON, HE SAID. IT IS NOT ENOUGH TO WORK ON SETTING UP A TIME AND PLACE FOR A MEETING. WE MUST GET FURTHER AGREEMENT FROM SMITH ON SUCH MATTERS AS A U.N. PRESENCE, A BRITISH RESIDENT COMMISSIONER, AN ARMY BASED ON THE LIBERATION FORCES, ETC. WHEN THE ANSWERS TO SMITH'S POSITION ON THESE QUESTIONS WERE CLEAR, IT WOULD BE EASIER TO SET UP A MEETING. IN ESSENCE, THE SMITH-NKOMO ENCOUNTER WAS SIMPLY ANOTHER ATTEMPT AT AN INTERNAL SETTLEMENT. HE WAS AGAIN TRYING TO CHOOSE HIS OWN SUCCESSOR AND IN THE PROCESS DIVIDING AND DAMAGING THE NATIONALIST MOVEMENT. HONWANA SAID THEY HAD BEEN FULLY BRIEFED IN LUSAKA ON THE SMITH-NKOMO TALKS. SMITH HAD AGREED TO HAND OVER POWER TO THE PATRIOTIC FRONT. WE NOTED THAT SMITH HAD DENIED THIS, BUT HONWANA INSISTED THAT THE WORDS SMITH HAD USED WERE THAT HE WAS PREPARED TO HAND POWER TO "SAFE HANDS". THE MOZAMBICANS MADE A MAJOR POINT OF INSISTING THAT WE CONTINUE OUR EFFORTS WHATEVER THE MOOD IN RHODESIA. THERE WOULD NEVER BE AN IDEAL TIME: SOMEONE WAS ALWAYS RELUCTANT TO NEGOTIATE FOR ONE REASON OR ANOTHER.

3. WE ACKNOWLEDGED WE HAD GONE ABOUT AS FAR AS WE COULD BY MEANS OF INTERMEDIARIES. IT WAS NOW NECESSARY FOR THE PARTIES THEMSELVES TO MEET FACE TO FACE. I NOTED THAT, WHILE WE WOULD CONTINUE OUR EFFORTS TO TRY TO NARROW THE DIFFERENCES IN MATTERS OF SUBSTANCE BETWEEN THE PARTIES, WE HAD ALL ALONG INSISTED THAT THERE BE NO PRECONDITIONS TO AN ALL-PARTIES

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MEETING. THE PATRIOTIC FRONT APPROACHED IT FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF THE AAP, AS DID WE, BUT SMITH AND HIS GROUP COULD NOT BE ASKED TO RENOUNCE THE MARCH 3RD AGREEMENT PRIOR TO A MEETING. WE WOULD STILL MAKE CLEAR TO THEM THE AREAS WHERE WE FELT THERE MUST BE CHANGE FROM THE MARCH 3RD AGREEMENT IF A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION WAS TO BE REACHED AT THE MEETING. IT WAS IMPORTANT, HOWEVER, THAT THERE BE NO MISUNDERSTANDING IN TERMS OF A DEMAND THAT THEY ACCEPT THIS BEFORE THE MEETING. HONWANA ACCEPTED THIS POINT, BUT HE INSISTED AGAIN THAT THE UK AND US SHOULD NOT RELAX THE PRESSURE NOW OR ALLOW SMITH TO USE THE AIRCRAFT DISASTER AS AN EXCUSE TO DELAY TALKS.

4. WE ASKED HONWANA ABOUT THE PROSPECTS FOR PF UNITY. HE SAID HE THOUGHT THEY WERE QUITE GOOD. THERE WOULD SOON BE A JOINT EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING AT WHICH ONE CANDIDATE WOULD BE CHOSEN FOR THE PRESIDENCY OF A UNIFIED PF. THE LEADERSHIP WOULD BE BROUGHT TOGETHER UNDER A COMMON PROGRAM. HE BELIEVED THAT THIS WOULD BE ACCOMPLISHED SHORTLY.

EDMONDSON

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## Message Attributes

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